



USAID
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UKRAINE

Creating a Municipal Finance Facility Enables Ukrainian Cities to Obtain Loans

Minister of Construction, Architecture and Housing Services Pavlo Kachur spoke at a USAID-sponsored international conference on a municipal finance facility for Ukraine, held in Kyiv on January 27. USAID Office of Economic Growth Director, Gary Linden joined the minister and conference participants - including nine experts from three continents - in a discussion on the creation of a new, market-oriented finance facility that would specialize in making long-term infrastructure loans to cities and communal services enterprises.

"The creation of successful finance facilities includes finding creative solutions and cooperation between all parties involved," Linden explained.

The conference provided an opportunity for Ukrainian central and local government officials, communal service enterprise executives and financial market professionals to share information and perspectives for use of a municipal finance facility mechanism. USAID's Access to Credit initiative, which co-sponsored the conference, is a five-year project to develop the municipal bond and mortgage markets, as well as a credit bureau and financial leasing capacity for Ukraine. The workshop was followed by a press conference on January 31.

Roundtable Held on USAID Assistance in Land Market Development

On February 8, 2006, USAID/Ukraine held a round table on Land Titling and Land Market De-

velopment in Ukraine with the participation of a USAID assessment team, USAID/Ukraine representatives, Land Titling Initiative (ULTI) staff, Ukrainian NGOs, GOU officials and World Bank representatives.



Roman Schmidt (right), head of Association of Advisory Services of Ukraine, confers with Oleksandr Muliur (left), ULTI activity manager

Along with discussion on ULTI project results, the participants exchanged views on conversion of land shares to land titles for agricultural lands; standards to delineate land parcels; and land market development in rural and urban areas of Ukraine.

"I think that the intent of most of our work is to try to stimulate the land market in Ukraine," said Michael Roth, head of the USAID assessment team, at the round table opening, "USAID programs have certainly focused on this area."

Round table participants mentioned revocation of a moratorium on land sale in Ukraine, improvement of the real estate registry system, and training of mid-level government officials in modern land system management among the steps still needed to be taken.

USAID/Ukraine through its ULTI project is assisting the Government of Ukraine with distribution of land titles and development of a

land market. ULTI is financing the transfer of at least 1.8 million (out of total 7 million) agricultural land share parcels to private owners.

European Youth Parliament Addresses Human Trafficking

More than 70 young people from 12 European countries were in Kyiv on February 9-12 to take part in a regional session of the European Youth Parliament, which was dedicated to human trafficking. They were greeted by Ukraine's Minister of Family, Youth and Sports Yuriy Pavlenko and Thomas Ehr, Executive Director of the MTV Europe Foundation. The potential European leaders worked in six committees and developed resolutions on various aspects of the problems of human trafficking and migration, which eventually could be taken up by the European Parliament as part of its European youth initiative program. USAID supported the European Youth Parliament regional session through its agreement with the International Organization for Migration.



Ukrainian MP Hennadiy Udovenko (center) speaks with USAID Deputy Mission Director Karen Hilliard (right) at European Youth Parliament Session

Support for Major Reform of Child Welfare in Ukraine

About 100,000 children in Ukraine are outside of family care, according to Yuriy Pavlenko, Ukraine's Minister of Family, Youth and Sports. The majority of them live in state institutions: baby homes, orphanages, boarding schools. USAID/Ukraine's Families for Children Program (FCP) organized a workshop on Foster Care on February 6-10, 2006,

in Kyiv to discuss problems of foster care and conduct practical training of foster parents. Among the participants were representatives of local and regional public centers for social services from the FCP pilot sites as well as NGOs that provide child welfare services. The workshop offered practical skills training targeted at recruitment and screening of foster parents, training of foster parents, follow up support as well as organization and administration of services.



Marek Vnuk (left), director of Charitable Foundation "Sunshine", got a training certificate

It is expected that upon their return home, the workshop participants will begin foster care recruitment and training.

The new government of Ukraine has initiated major reform in child welfare to ensure that every child is raised in a family environment. The first priority is to support and strengthen the family to enable birth parents to provide good care for their children. The goal of the FCP, which is implemented by Holt International and is consistent with GOU priorities, is to establish a continuum of family-centered community-based services for vulnerable children and families.

Upcoming Events

February 21, Ukraine Citizen Action Network Project, a Donor Roundtable Discussion on "Community Philanthropy Prospects in Ukraine"

February 23, Mother & Infant Health Project, Project Launch in Luhansk oblast

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